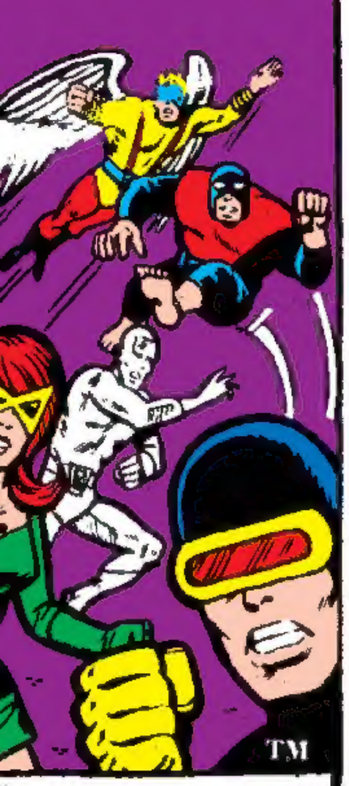

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The X-MEN™ FEATURING:

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THE POWER OF MAGNETO

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X-MEN! THE MOST UNUSUAL FIGHTING TEAM OF ALL TIME!™

"THE TORCH IS PASSED...!"

FOR THE GRIEVING X-MEN, *LIFE* MUST GO ON...EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE NOW BEREFT OF THE QUIET WISDOM, THE COOL-HEADED LEADERSHIP, OF THEIR BELOVED *PROFESSOR X!*

YET, THEY WOULD BREATHE EVEN *LESS* EASILY, IF THEY KNEW WHO WAS *OBSERVING* THEM IN THEIR HOUR OF SORROW...

SO...THE ACCURSED *MENTOR* OF THE X-MEN IS *DEAD* AT LAST!

MY ONLY REGRET IS THAT IT WAS SOMEONE *ELSE* WHO SNUFFED OUT HIS WORTHLESS LIFE...AND NOT I, *MAGNETO!*

AT ANY RATE, *NOW* IS THE TIME TO GATHER MY FORCES TO *STRIKE* AGAINST THEM!

QUICKSILVER!!

WHERE *IS* THAT INFERNAL HUMAN TORPEDO?

STAN LEE PRESENTS WITH PERSPICACIOUS PRIDE THIS MAGNETIZED MASTER-WORK BY: ROY THOMAS and GEORGE TUSKA
INKED BY: JOHN TARTAGLIONE
LETTERED BY: SAM ROSEN

OUR GRATEFUL THANKS TO THIS ISH'S ARTIST, LONESOME *GEORGE TUSKA*, FOR ACTING AS BULLPEN BACK-UP MAN... WHILE DASHIN' *DONNIE HECK* LABORED LOVINGLY OVER NEXT MONTH'S *SPIDEY* YARN! ...-STAN AND ROY.

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BUT, EVEN AS MAGNETO RAGES, LET US VIEW THE SCENE WHICH THE EVIL MUTANT WAS *OBSERVING* FROM AFAR... A SCENE PERHAPS MORE *TRANQUIL*, BUT ONLY BECAUSE THE OCCASION IS ONE OF *SADNESS*...

... CHARLES XAVIER WAS A *GOOD* MAN... A *JUST* MAN!

THOUGH HE LIVED A LIFE APART, HE DEDICATED HIS DAYS TO THE WELFARE OF *OTHERS!*

AND *MANKIND* IS THE POORER FOR HIS *PASSING!*

REVEREND BROWN IS REFERRING TO THE GOOD THAT PROFESSOR XAVIER DID AS A *TEACHER!*

BUT, ONLY A *HANDFUL* OF US KNOW HOW HE PROTECTED HUMANITY AS THE LEADER OF THE *X-MEN!*

THE PROFESSOR... *DEAD!*

IT STILL DOESN'T SEEM *POSSIBLE!*

HE WAS TAKEN FROM US *TOO SOON*...

AND WE SHALL *MISS* HIM!

YES, AND *MORE* THAN MISS HIM! FOR, HE FILLED US WITH A SENSE OF *MISSION*... TO DEFEND THE WORLD AGAINST THOSE WHO ARE CALLED *EVIL MUTANTS!*

STEADY, JEAN! THE PROFESSOR WOULD *WANT* IT THAT WAY!

I.. I KNOW, SCOTT!

I WONDER... WILL *ANY* OF US BE ABLE TO LIVE UP TO WHAT HE *EXPECTED* OF US?

MEANWHILE, IN THE STREETS OF A NEARBY *TOWN*...

OHHH..!

OUT OF MY WAY!

I MUST GET *THRU*... WITHOUT *DELAY!*

IT'S... A *MAN!*

BUT, MOVING FASTER THAN AN *EXPRESS TRAIN!*

THEN, VANISHING *SO QUICKLY* THAT THE STUNNED SPECTATORS ARE STILL UNSURE OF THEIR SENSES, THE FLEETING FIGURE REACHES THE *COUNTRYSIDE*...

FASTER! MUST HAVE *MORE SPEED!*

IF I'M *TOO LATE*... I COULD NEVER *FORGIVE* MYSELF...!

AND, MERE SECONDS LATER...

MADE IT... AND THERE ARE THE *X-MEN!*

MUST KEEP *OUT OF SIGHT*... SO THEY DON'T *NOTICE* ME!

AND, ONLY A SHORT DISTANCE AWAY...

IT SEEMS ONLY *MOMENTS* AGO THAT THE PROFESSOR WAS *ALIVE*...

...LEADING US INTO BATTLE AGAINST *MAGNETO*.. THE *SENTINELS*...A DOZEN DEADLY *FOES!*

AND NOW...

THEN, SUDDENLY...

WARREN...ALL OF YOU... *LOOK!* BY THAT *TREE!*

IT... *CAN'T* BE...!

BUT, IT *IS!*

QUICK-SILVER!

WE *HEARD* THAT HE HAD LEFT THE *AVENGERS*...AND REJOINED *MAGNETO!*

BUT, WE NEVER DREAMED HE'D SHOW UP *HERE*... NOT *NOW!*

IF HE'S COME TO *GLOAT*...OR TO *ATTACK* US... HE'LL *REGRET* HIS INDISCRETION!

MADE IT! BUT, I'M SO *EXHAUSTED*...I CAN HARDLY *STAND!*

NEVER HAVE I TASKED MY POWERS OF SUPER-SPEED SO *SORELY!*

WAIT! HERE COME.. THE *X-MEN!*

PIETRO...DON'T RUN AWAY! WE WANT TO *TALK* TO YOU!

I *KNEW* THEY MIGHT SEE ME...WHEN I OBEYED MY IRRESISTIBLE IMPULSE TO ATTEND XAVIER'S *FUNERAL!*

I WONDER... DID I SUB-CONSCIOUSLY *WISH* TO BE SEEN...

...THAT I MIGHT *END* THE ACHING LONELINESS WHICH BEGAN WHEN I *RENOUNCED HUMANITY?*

TELL US WHY YOU'RE *HERE*, PIETRO...!

GOT TO GET *CLOSER* TO HIM...SO THAT *REVEREND BROWN* WON'T OVERHEAR OUR WORDS!

NOW, MORE THAN EVER, WE MUST SAFE-GUARD OUR OTHER *IDENTITIES!*

SO...EVEN AS CYCLOPS SPEAKS... HE EDGES EVER *NEARER!*

HE HOPES TO LULL ME INTO *CARELESSNESS* ...AND *CAPTURE* ME!

THE NEXT SECOND, AS SCOTT SUMMERS TAKES ONE MORE CAUTIOUS STEP...

WH..? WHERE IN BLAZES DID HE GO??

HE STREAKED OFF...SO FAST WE HARDLY SAW HIM MOVE!

BUT... WHY? WE ONLY WANTED TO HEAR WHAT HE CAME TO SAY..!

MAGNETO WAS RIGHT! I CAN TRUST NO ONE... NO ONE SAVE HIM!

MY PLACE IS EVER AS IT ONCE WAS... WITH THE BROTHER-HOOD OF EVIL MUTANTS!

WHOOOSH!

ON A RASH IMPULSE, I JOURNEYED HERE!

AND NOW, MY FEARS AND MISTRUST CONFIRMED ...I MUST FLEE!

I DON'T GET IT!

WHY DID HE ZOOM OFF LIKE THAT?

PERHAPS... WE'LL NEVER KNOW, LAD!

HAVE YOU POSSIBLY FORGOTTEN THE SOLEMNITY OF THE OCCASION, MY YOUNG FRIENDS?

COME BACK... WE MUST FINISH THE CEREMONY!

IT'S... REVEREND BROWN!

LUCKILY, HE DIDN'T TURN AROUND IN TIME TO SEE PIETRO RUN OFF.

WE'RE---COMING, SIR! WE THOUGHT WE SAW---SOME-ONE WE KNEW...!

THUS, BEFORE LONG, THE SAD RITUAL COMPLETED, THE GRIEVING YOUTHS BEGIN THEIR HOMEWARD TREK...

...SCARCELY REALIZING THAT, WATCHING THEIR EVERY MOVE, IS THE MOST DANGEROUS MUTANT OF ALL--!

SO! QUICKSILVER WENT TO OBSERVE THE FUNERAL WITH-OUT MY PER-MISSION---PER-HAPS EVEN TO BETRAY ME!

IF SUCH WAS HIS INTENTION, HE SHALL PAY! HOW HE SHALL PAY!

FOR, WITH OR WITHOUT HIM, I MEAN TO DESTROY XAVIER'S PRECIOUS PROTEGES... WHEN THE TIME IS RIPE!

AND, THAT TIME SHALL COME... SOON!

THEN, ANGRILY, MAGNETO *CEASES* HIS MONITORING...TO RETURN TO HIS PERNICIOUS PLOTTING...AND SO *MISSES* WHAT OCCURS A SHORT TIME LATER, BACK AT THE *SCHOOL*...

I WISH THAT THE PROFESSOR'S *OTHER* FRIENDS HAD MANAGED TO ATTEND!

BUT, AGENT *DUNCAN* OF THE *F.B.I.* DARED NOT COME... LEST SOMEONE WONDER *WHY!*

AND, THE *BANSHEE* WAS ABSENT ON A MISSION ...SO THAT WE COULDN'T *REACH* HIM!

THEY WERE WITH US IN *SPIRIT*...AND WILL SHARE OUR ..SENSE OF *LOSS!*

BUT NOW, THERE'S SOMETHING... WE MUST *DO*...!

NEXT, STRIDING ACROSS THE ROOM TO A *BUTTON* CONCEALED BEHIND A PASTORAL PAINTING ---

PROFESSOR XAVIER TOLD ME TO *PRESS* THIS...IF EVER HE...*LEFT* US!

THE FOLLOWING MOMENT, A CLEVERLY-CONCEALED *PANEL* IN A NEARBY WALL OPENS, TO *REVEAL*...

IT'S SOME SORT OF STRANGE *PROJECTOR*...WHICH EVEN *WE* DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT!

WHY CAN THE PROFESSOR HAVE *HIDDEN* IT THUS...EVEN FROM *US?*

I'M SURE HE MUST HAVE HAD A *REASON*, JEAN!

LOOK! ALREADY THE *LIGHTS* ARE STARTING TO AUTOMATICALLY *DIM!*

THEN, I SUGGEST WE ALL TAKE OUR *PLACES*...

AND PERHAPS THIS ENTIRE MYSTERY WILL SOON *UNRAVEL* ITSELF!

SECONDS LATER, A SORROWFULLY FAMILIAR *FACE* APPEARS ON A LOWERED *SCREEN*...

PROFESSOR XAVIER!

HIS IMAGE SEEMS SO *SAD*...YET *RESIGNED!*

LISTEN, MY X-MEN, TO THIS MESSAGE I'VE PREPARED FOR YOU TO HEAR... AFTER MY *DEATH!*

I'VE SO *MUCH* TO SAY...AND A *FINAL REQUEST* TO MAKE OF YOU...AND SO LITTLE TIME...SO LITTLE *TIME!*

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE WE'RE HEARING HIS VOICE ...FOR THE *LAST TIME!*

IS THERE *ANYTHING* HE COULD ASK OF US...THAT WE WOULDN'T *DO??*

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FOR THE PAST FEW WEEKS, I HAVE KNOWN THAT I WAS *DYING*... DYING OF A DISEASE WHICH NEITHER *MEDICAL SCIENCE* NOR MY OWN *MUTANT POWERS* CAN CURE!

THEREFORE, I HAVE BEEN ATTEMPTING TO COMPLETE THE *FINAL STAGES* OF YOUR TRAINING... SO THAT YOU MAY *CARRY ON* WHEN I AM... GONE!

THEN... THAT'S WHY HE WAS *DRIVING* US SO HARD NEAR THE END! IT WAS FOR *OUR* OWN SAKES!

WE MIGHT HAVE *KNOWN*... YET, WE NEVER EVEN *SUSPECTED*..!

QUIET, ALL OF YOU! WE'VE GOT TO HEAR *EVERY WORD* OF THIS!

MOREOVER, SO THAT MY MENTAL POWERS MAY NOT BE ENTIRELY *LOST* TO YOU, I HAVE BEEN SECRETLY PREPARING *JEAN GREY*!

BY NOW, SHE SHOULD HAVE ADDED *TELEPATHY* TO HER MIND-OVER-MATTER ABILITIES!

AND WE THOUGHT... THEY DIDN'T *CARE* WHAT HAPPENED TO THE REST OF US!

YET, ALL THE TIME, THE PROF WAS TRAINING HER TO TAKE OVER SOME OF HIS OWN *POWERS*!

FOR, IF MY CALCULATIONS ARE CORRECT, YOU'LL SOON BE CALLED UPON TO FACE ONE OF THE GREATEST *MUTANT MENACES* OF ALL!

IT IS MY BELIEF THAT *MAGNETO* HAS RETURNED TO EARTH!!

HE WAS *RIGHT*!

BUT, HE MUST HAVE MADE THIS FILM BEFORE EVEN THE *AVENGERS* KNEW OF MAGNETO'S ESCAPE!

AND NOW, I'VE NO *TIME* LEFT... FOR I HAVE JUST LEARNED THE LOCATION OF THE SINISTER SUB-HUMAN KNOWN AS *GROTESK*, AND MUST TRY TO STOP HIM BEFORE HE *DESTROYS* THE ENTIRE PLANET!*

IF I *FAIL*... OR IF I SHOULD *PERISH* IN MY ATTEMPT... THIS BRIEF FILM WILL SAY WHAT I MYSELF *COULD NOT*!

AND NOW, *FAREWELL*, MY X-MEN! THE TORCH HAS BEEN PASSED... AND I KNOW YOU SHALL BE *WORTHY* OF IT!

NO... *NO*! THAT *CAN'T* BE THE END! IT *CAN'T*...!

IT *WON'T* BE, JEAN... AS THE *PROFESSOR* HIMSELF RECOGNIZED!

WE MUST NOW *CARRY ON*.. AND MAKE A NEW *BEGINNING*..!

*AS WE ALL SAW IN THE TRAGIC *X-MEN* #42! ... STAN.

BUT, EVEN AS THE *IMAGE* OF PROFESSOR X FADES FROM THE SCREEN...EVEN AS THE SORROWFUL YOUNG MUTANTS *REDEDICATE* THEMSELVES TO THE CAUSE OF JUSTICE...

...OUR SCENE SWITCHES TO AN ALMOST UNKNOWN *ISLAND* SOMEWHERE IN THE ATLANTIC, WHERE...

HAH! MY VAST MAGNETIC POWERS ARE *STRONGER* THAN EVER!

HOW *SIMPLE* IT WAS TO WRECK THAT *CARGO SHIP*...

...BY PULLING IT ONTO THE *ROCKS!*

FOR, WHY SHOULD THE INCOMPARABLE *MAGNETO* SCROUNGE FOR *SUPPLIES* FOR HIS IMPREGNABLE FORTRESS...

...WHEN I CAN SO EASILY OBTAIN THEM FROM MY ACCURSED INFERIORS...THE *HOMO SAPIENS!*

NEXT, HAVING LET THE *CREW* ESCAPE...SO THAT THEY CAN TELL MANKIND THE *EXTENT* OF MY INVINCIBLE MIGHT...

IT IS TIME TO BLAST THE VESSEL TO *BITS*...WITH BUT A SINGLE *GESTURE!*

BUH-ROOOM!

AND NOW, I MUST READY MYSELF TO DEAL WITH THE TREACHEROUS *QUICKSILVER!*

AND, AT THAT PRECISE INSTANT, A MAGNETICALLY-POWERED *VEHICLE* APPROACHES FROM ANOTHER DIRECTION...CARRYING THE *METEORIC MUTANT*...

..UNAWARE THAT HIS EVERY EARLIER ACTION WAS SEEN BY THE MERCILESS EYES OF ...*MAGNETO!*

HERE IS WHERE MY TRUE DESTINY LIES...ON THIS ROCKBOUND ISLE, FAR FROM THE MADDENED, MADDENING MOB CALLED *HUMANITY*...

...A *UNIVERSE* AWAY FROM THE LIFE THAT ONCE I LED...AS AN *AVENGER!*

WHOOOSH!

MOMENTS LATER...

I MUST LEARN IF MY *SISTER* IS BETTER SINCE I DEPARTED!

FOR, IT IS *SHE* WHO HAS SUFFERED *MOST* AT THE HANDS OF THE INFERNAL HOMO SAPIENS... SHE WHO WAS ALMOST *KILLED* BY THEM!

BUT... *HOLD!* *WHO IS THAT..??*

SOME SKULKING *FORM*...LURKING IN THE SOMBRE *SHADOWS*...!

THE *TOAD!!*

YES, YOU OVERBEARING FOOL!

IT IS THE *TOAD*.. THE ONE UN-SWERVINGLY *LOYAL* ALLY OF MAGNETO!

THE MASTER WILL BE MOST *INTERESTED* TO HEAR THAT YOU CAME IN SO QUIETLY... SO *STEALTHILY!*

HE SHALL BE MOST INTERESTED *INDEED!*

TELL HIM WHAT YOU *WILL*, COWERING ONE... I'M NOT HIS *LACKEY*, AS YOU ARE!

QUICKSILVER GOES WHERE HE *WISHES*...AND, IF YOU OR ANYONE ELSE TRIES TO *STOP* ME--!

DON'T YOU *STRIKE* ME, PIETRO!

I'LL TELL THE *MASTER*.. RIGHT NOW! YES I *WILL!*

HE'LL *PUNISH* YOU FOR YOUR INSOLENCE TO ME! JUST YOU WAIT AND *SEE!*

THEN, AS THE HATEFUL TOAD *HOPS OFF*...

SHE SEEMS OUTWARDLY *BETTER*...BUT HER THOUGHTS ARE ARE STILL *VAGUE*... HER HEX POWER *VANISHED!*

SOMETIMES I WONDER...IF PERHAPS THE *AVENGERS* COULD HELP HER!

PERHAPS I SHOULD--!

OH, PIETRO... I *SEARCHED* FOR YOU...AND YOU WERE *GONE!*

I KNOW WHAT A *BURDEN* TO YOU I AM, MY BROTHER...

AND I THOUGHT PERHAPS YOU HAD *LEFT*...*FOREVER!*

DO NOT EVEN *IMAGINE* SUCH THINGS, WANDA!

MY PLACE IS EVER *HERE*... WITH *YOU!*

BUT, THE NEXT SECOND, THE STRAIN OF A SELF-IMPOSED *EXILE*... OF HIS SISTER'S LINGERING *ILLNESS*... PLUS THE SHOCK OF PROFESSOR X'S SUDDEN *DEATH*... CAUSE AN OVERWHELMING *GRIEF* TO WELL UP WITHIN THE YOUNG MUTANT, AND...

I HAD HOPED THAT *CHARLES XAVIER* MIGHT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO *CURE* YOU SOMEHOW... BUT I ARRIVED *TOO LATE!*

NOW HE... WHO WAS ONCE OUR *ONLY FRIEND*... IS GONE! I'VE *FAILED* YOU!

PLEASE, PIETRO... DON'T *WORRY* SO ABOUT ME! I'LL BE... *ALL RIGHT!*

IF ONLY THERE WERE SOMETHING I COULD DO...!

MY EVERY INSTINCT TELLS ME THAT WE SHOULD NOT REMAIN *HERE*, AND YET...

JUST THEN...

MAGNETO!

YES, YOU MISERABLE UPSTART!

DID YOU THINK THAT A *SEA GULL* COULD LAND ON THIS ISLAND WITHOUT MY *KNOWLEDGE?*

THERE HE IS, MASTER! *GET HIM!*

TEACH HIM A *LESSON* FOR THREATENING THE LOYAL *TOAD!*

WH...? MASTER... WHAT ARE YOU *DOING??*

PUT ME *DOWN*, MASTER.. I *BEG* OF YOU!

SILENCE, YOU SNIVELING SYCOPHANT! I FORCE YOU TO WEAR A *METALLIC BELT* SO THAT I MAY CHASTIZE YOU THUS!

IT IS FOR *MAGNETO* TO DEAL WITH THOSE WHO WOULD BETRAY HIM... NOT FOR *YOU!*

IF YOU REFER TO *ME*, MAGNETO... I HAVE NOT *BETRAYED* YOU!

WITH EACH PASSING DAY, OUR LEADER BECOMES MORE *CRUEL*... AND MORE *POWERFUL!*

YET, HE HAS SAID THAT SOON HE MAY BE ABLE TO *HELP* WANDA...!

SUDDENLY, AN ANGRY FORM WHIRLS TOWARDS QUICKSILVER...

SO...YOU DARE *LIE* TO ME...TO MY VERY *FACE!*

PLOP!

DO YOU *DENY* THAT YOU LEFT MY ISLAND TO WITNESS PROFESSOR X'S *FUNERAL?*

I DENY *NOTHING!*

BUT, I WENT ONLY OUT OF *SADNESS*... FOR THE FATE OF ONE WHO UNDERSTOOD WHAT IT MEANT TO BE... AN *OUTCAST!*

AND *I*, YOU YOUNG FOOL? DO YOU SUPPOSE THAT *MAGNETO* IS NOT MORE TRULY YOUR FRIEND THAN THAT HUMAN-LOVING *TRAITOR* EVER WAS?

WAS IT NOT *I* WHO ONCE SAVED YOU FROM ANGRY MOBS OF THE HATED HOMO SAPIENS...

IS IT NOT *I* WHO LABOR NIGHT AND DAY TO CREATE A DEVICE TO *CURE* YOUR SISTER?

SO YOU *SAY*, MAGNETO... YET I'VE SEEN NO *PROOF* OF YOUR LABORS!

ENOUGH, PIETRO...LEST I FORGET OUR LONG-STANDING *FRIENDSHIP!*

IN A FEW DAYS, A CARGO SHIP CARRYING CERTAIN *INVALUABLE EQUIPMENT* IS SCHEDULED TO PASS NEAR THIS POINT!

WHEN I *POSSESS* THAT EQUIPMENT, YOU SHALL *SEE* HOW MAGNETO REWARDS HIS ALLIES.'

I DON'T *TRUST* HIM, PIETRO! WE SHOULD *LEAVE* THIS ISLAND.'

WE *CANNOT*, WANDA...NOT *YET!*

LET US GO, MASTER!

AWAY, DOLT! MUST YOU BE FOREVER BENEATH MY *FEET?*

THEN, AS THE MOST DANGEROUS OF MUTANTS STRIDES AWAY...

BOTH OF THEM *SUSPECT* MY INTENTIONS, BUT THEY'LL DO *NOTHING* ABOUT IT... FOR *NOW!*

AND, EVEN *PIETRO* DOES NOT REALIZE THAT IT WAS *I* WHO CAUSED A HUMAN'S BULLET TO GRAZE THE SCARLET WITCH'S HEAD...THAT THEY MIGHT *JOIN* ME! *

SOON, HOWEVER, MY SECRET *PLAN* SHALL BE ACCOMPLISHED, AND I'LL NO LONGER NEED THEM... OR *ANYONE!*

*AN UNFORGETTABLE MOMENT IN CONTEMPORARY COMIC-MAG LITERATURE...AS DEPICTED IN *AVENGERS #49!*
---SEPULCHRAL STAN.

A FEW DAYS LATER, JUST AS MAGNETO *PREDICTED*...

ABOARD THAT SHIP... ACCORDING TO *RADIO REPORTS* I HAVE MONITORED...IS A GIANT NEW *COMPUTER* WHICH I SORELY NEED!

AND, WHAT MAGNETO *NEEDS*... HE *TAKES*.!!

BUT, ABOARD THE SUDDENLY HALTED VESSEL, THERE ARE OTHERS WHO HAVE *DIFFERENT* IDEAS...

DON'T LOOK *NOW*, DEPUTY LEADER, BUT IT APPEARS OUR MAGNETIC *FISH* JUST DEVOURED THE *BAIT*!

I *THOUGHT* THE NEWS OF SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT ABOARD WOULD LURE HIM!

NOW, IF ONLY HE'LL PULL US TO HIS *ISLAND*...SO WE CAN TAKE HIM BY *SURPRISE*...!

WHILE, BELOW DECKS...

SOS...*SOS*! THIS SHIP HELD MOTIONLESS... IN GRIP OF UNKNOWN *FORCE*! *SOS*!

IT'S NO *USE*!

THE RADIO'S GONE *DEAD*!

AND, ALMOST AT ONCE...

HOLY SMOKE! THE WHOLE SHIP'S BEING LIFTED RIGHT OUT OF THE *WATER*...!

HYRMIDON

WHATEVER'S DOING IT... MUST BE CONNECTED TO THE *FORTRESS* ON THAT *ISLAND*!

BUT...*HOW*??

YET, ONLY *FIVE* PERSONS ABOARD KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT GASPED QUERY... AND THEY'RE TOO *BUSY* TO EXPLAIN JUST NOW...!

IT'S LUCKY MY PARENTS JUST SENT MY *MONTHLY ALLOWANCE!*

OTHERWISE, THE CAPTAIN WOULD NEVER HAVE LET SEVERAL *TEEN-AGERS* BOOK PASSAGE ON THIS CARGO SHIP!

AN *ALLOWANCE*, HE CALLS IT! FOR A PALTRY SUM *MORE*, WE COULD HAVE *PURCHASED* THE ENTIRE VESSEL!

NO TIME FOR *THAT..!*

LET'S GO, X-MEN!!

WHAT BEATS ME, CYKE, IS HOW YOU FIGURED OUT FOR SURE THAT MAGNETO WAS LIKELY TO STOP *THIS* PARTICULAR SHIP!

IT WAS A *CALCULATED RISK*, ANGEL...

BASED ON THE CARGOES OF THE *LAST* FEW SHIPS THAT DISAPPEARED NEAR HERE!

I DON'T MEAN TO *BUTT IN*, FELLAS...

...BUT, IF YOU DON'T WATCH YOUR FOOTING ON MY ICE SLIDE, YOU'RE LIABLE TO END UP WITH SLIGHTLY *SOGGY THREADS!*

AND, *INSIDE* THE HOLLOW ISLE...

BLAST THE LUCK!!

I DIDN'T WANT MY FINAL SHOW-DOWN WITH THE X-MEN TO COME *YET!*

I WANTED TO PLAN THEIR DOWN-FALL *CARE-FULLY*... WITH INFINITE *RELISH!*

SMASH!

FOR, ONCE THE *COMPUTER* ABOARD THAT SHIP IS INSTALLED WITHIN THIS *CASING*... THIS MACHINE SHALL BRING ME *WORLD MASTERY!*

ITS EMANATIONS ARE DESIGNED TO BLANKET THE *EARTH*... ENSLAVING THE *MINDS* OF ALL *HOMO SAPIENS!*

THEN... ISOLATED AND DESPAIRING... THE X-MEN WOULD *FALL!*

BUT, THERE IS NO REASON FOR *REGRET!*

IF THOSE FOOLS ATTACK, THEY MERELY HASTEN THEIR OWN *DOOM!*

AND, THEY SHALL FIND *MAGNETO* MOST WILLING TO *OBLIGE!*

THUS IT IS THAT, AS THE COSTUMED YOUTHS *ENTER* MAGNETO'S SANCTUM SANCTORUM...

I DON'T *LIKE* IT! WE'VE GOTTEN TOO *FAR*... TOO *EASILY!*

AN ASTUTE *ANALYSIS*, LASS!

MAYBE... BUT OUR BEST CHANCE IS TO FACE HIM IN A LARGE *OPEN AREA*... LIKE THE ONE *JUST AHEAD!*

WHILE, RAPIDLY APPROACHING FROM THE *OPPOSITE* DIRECTION...

WHAT DIRE *TRAPS* HAVE YOU SET FOR THEM, MASTER?

I *NEED* NO TRAPS TO DEFEAT THOSE MEDDLING MORONS!

MAGNETO NEEDS *NOTHING*... SAVE HIS OWN INCALCULABLE *POWER!*

AND, INDEED, A MERE MOMENT *LATER*...

LOOK OUT! THERE'S *MAGN*... =OOOFF!=

WOK!

BONK!

SAVE YOUR *BREATH*, FEMALE! LET MY *ACTIONS* BE MY INTRODUCTION!

THOSE LOOSE STRIPS OF *SHEETING* FROM THE CEILING WILL DISPOSE OF *TWO* OF YOU!

STILL LETTING *METAL* DO ALL YOUR DIRTY WORK, EH, YOU MAGNETIZED MALEVOLENT?

LET'S SEE HOW YOUR POLARIZED POWERS FARE AGAINST SOMETHING *NON-METALLIC!*

EVEN THAT *STONE URN* CONTAINS BILLIONS OF ATOMS OF *IRON*, FOOL...

...AND, IT'S A SIMPLE MATTER FOR A SINGLE GESTURE TO STIR THOSE ATOMS INTO FRENZIED *MOTION*...

...UTTERLY *DESTROYING* YOUR IMPROVISED WEAPON!

THRAK!

MEANWHILE, ONLY A FEW SHORT FEET AWAY, A NEW ELEMENT HAS ENTERED THE FRAY...

THAT EMERALD *BLUR!* WHAT..??

IT CAN ONLY BE.... *QUICKSILVER!*

I KNEW HE'D *BE* HERE... BUT I'D DARED HOPE HE'D REFRAIN FROM ATTACK-ING US!

STILL CAN'T BRING MYSELF TO USE MY *OPTIC BLASTS* AGAINST HIM...!

LET THERE BE NO DOUBT OF MY ALLEGIANCE, CYCLOPS!

IF I CAN STOP THE X-MEN *MYSELF*... PERHAPS THEY WILL NOT BE *HARMED!*

BUT, THE BEST-LAID PLANS OF MICE AND MUTANTS, ETC....

YOU ARE *TOO SLOW*, PIETRO... FOR ALL YOUR VAUNTED *SPEED!*

MY WAY IS MUCH MORE *EFFECTIVE*... IF LESS *DIRECT!*

SEE HOW THE VERY *FLOOR* FLIES FROM BENEATH HIS FEET!

RRIPP!

≡MMMFF!≡

AND LOOK AT *ME*, MASTER!

SEE HOW THE FAITHFUL *TOAD* DOWNS FOUR OF YOUR ENEMIES...

WITH THIS *BATTERING RAM*!!

HEADS UP, GROUP! I... *YOWWP!*

KBAM!

MMMFF!

THEN, SUDDENLY, A *FIFTH* MASKED FIGURE STEPS TO THE FORE...

LET'S SEE HOW LITTLE TOY FARES AGAINST... *CYCLOPS!*

BRAK!

THE YOUNG FOOL'S USING HIS *OPTIC BLASTS*... HEAD-ON AGAINST THE *RAM!*

SOMETHING HAS TO *GIVE...!!*

AND, AN INSTANT LATER, SOMETHING *DOES*...

SPLAK!

...AS THE HEAD OF THE BATTERING RAM *SHATTERS* ...INTO FRAGMENTS OF SCATTERED *METAL!*

BUT, ONLY A FEW FEET AWAY...

HAH! THOSE MEDDLESOME BRATS ARE ALL RIGHT WHERE I *WANT* THEM!

A PULL OF THIS *LEVER--*

KLIK!

...TURNING THE VERY *FLOOR* ON WHICH THEY STAND INTO AN *ELECTRIC FIELD--*

ZZZ ZAPTT

AND THE X-MEN ARE *DEFEATED*... FOR THE *FINAL TIME!!*

NEXT ISH: "*RED RAVEN, RED RAVEN!*"

AN EXTRAORDINARY X-MEN BONUS FEATURE!

"CALL HIM... CYCLOPS"

THE AERIAL AGILITY OF THE *ANGEL*--THE STRENGTH OF THE *BEAST*--THE TELEKINETIC ABILITY OF *MARVEL GIRL*--THE SUB-ZERO STUNTS OF *ICEMAN*! FOR SHEER PULSE-POUNDING POWER, NOT EVEN THESE CAN MATCH THE AWESOME *OPTIC BLASTS* OF THE MUTANT NAMED *SCOTT SUMMERS*....!

AT LAST, IN ANSWER TO A MOUNTAIN OF REQUESTS, WE PROUDLY PRESENT THE *INSIDE INFO*--MUCH OF IT NEVER BEFORE PUBLISHED ON THIS MOST *MYSTERIOUS* OF THE UNCANNY X-MEN.!!

SPECIAL NOTE: PUT DOWN THAT PENCIL, PILGRIM! *NO,* WE'RE DEFINITELY NOT DISCONTINUING OUR POPULAR *"ORIGINS OF THE X-MEN"* SERIES! WE'RE JUST INTERRUPTING IT FOR AN ISH--AS OUR WAY OF KEEPIN' YOU *ON YOUR TOES....!*

NONE BUT *EDITOR* **STAN LEE** COULD SUPERVISE SUCH A MINISCULE MASTERPIECE!

NONE BUT *WRITER* **ROY THOMAS** AND *ARTIST* **WERNER ROTH** COULD CO-CREATE SUCH A DIMINUTIVE DRAMA!

NONE BUT OUR EVER-LOVIN' *INKER* COULD POSSIBLY EXPECT *LETTERER* **ARTIE SIMEK** TO SPELL A NAME LIKE **JOHN VERPOORTEN!**

AND NOW, LET'S GET *WITH* IT, SHALL WE--?

THOUGH HE'S ONE SUPERHERO WHO WOULD RATHER *SWITCH OFF* HIS SUPER POWER THAN *FIGHT*, THE SENSATIONAL MR. SUMMERS JUST *CAN'T HELP* POSSESSING ENOUGH MIND-STAGGERING MIGHT TO DEMOLISH A FULLY-ARMORED *TANK*...

KA-YA-A-A-A!

POW!

BUT, HOW DID HE *GET* HIS POWER--AND HOW DO HIS AMAZING EYE-BLASTS *WORK?* (WE WERE *HOPING* YOU'D ASK!)

IT'S NEVER BEFORE BEEN *REVEALED*--BUT, THE ULTIMATE *SOURCE* OF THESE OPTIC BEAMS IS...THE LIFE-GIVING *SUN* ITSELF...

SCOTT'S PIERCING BROWN EYES ACT AS MINIATURE, YET ULTRA-EFFECTIVE *SOLAR BATTERIES*--STORING UP *LIGHT* AS DO THE PLANTS ABOUT US...

AND, IN A PROCESS NOT UNLIKE *PHOTOSYNTHESIS*, THEY CONVERT IT INTO IRRESISTIBLE *ENERGY!*

EVEN WHILE CYKE MIGHT *DOZE OFF* DURING A SUN-BATHING SESSION, A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF LIGHT WOULD *PENETRATE* HIS MUTANT EYELIDS--

BUT, IF HE ACCIDENTALLY *OPENS* THOSE POWER-PACKED PEEPERS--*GANGWAY!*

SINCE VIRTUALLY *ALL* NATURAL LIGHT ON EARTH COMES DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY FROM THE *SUN*, A SMALL AMOUNT OF POWER IS PRODUCED EVEN AT *NIGHT*...

AS EVERY TRUE *X-MEN AFICIONADO* KNOWS BY HEART, THE POTENTIALLY LETHAL RAYS FORMED IN THIS MANNER CAN BE STOPPED ONLY BY THE *RUBY QUARTZ** OF CYCLOPS' *SUNGLASSES* OR *VISOR*...

A SIMPLE PRESS OF THIS *STUD* ON THE SIDE OF MY VISOR--

--AND I'M READY TO TAKE ON ANYBODY THIS SIDE OF *FORBUSH-MAN!*

**WHY* RUBY QUARTZ? WE'LL LET YOU KNOW AS SOON AS WE FIGURE IT OUT *OURSELVES!* --STAN, ROY, AND WERNER.

AT CYKE'S TOUCH, THE SPECIALLY-CREATED VISOR *OPENS*--TO RELEASE A WIDE-SWEEPING ARC OF IMMENSE *POWER*...

BECAUSE OF THE DESIGN OF THE VISOR, THE ARC MAY BE *WIDENED* OR *NARROWED*--TO SUIT SCOTT'S *TARGET* FOR THE DAY!

PZAKT!

OF COURSE, JUST LIKE MORE *PLEBEIAN* STORAGE BATTERIES, THE POWER OF THE EYE-BEAMS MAY BE *DISCHARGED* MORE RAPIDLY THAN IT CAN BE *REPLENISHED*...

AND, SUCH IS THE CLOSE COORDINATION BETWEEN SIGHT, MIND, AND BODY--THAT SUCH A GREAT EXPENDITURE DRAINS EVEN CYKE'S *PHYSICAL ENERGY!*

BUT, AS SCOTT SUMMERS GROWS *OLDER*--HIS EYES, LIKE HIS BODY, GROW EVER *STRONGER*... AND THE TIME FOR TOTAL *RECHARGING* IS CONSTANTLY *LESSENING*...

I'M BETTING CYCLOPS CAN'T BOTHER US FOR A LONG WH--

-UHHHN!-

BRAK!

I'LL TAKE *HALF* THAT BET, VANISHER!

NOW, JUST TO PROVE THAT OUR EXEMPLARY X-MEN DON'T SPEND **ALL** THEIR TIME SAVING THE WORLD, HERE'S A SOMEWHAT MORE **DOWN-TO-EARTH** SUPER-FEAT...

BY THE WAY, CONTRARY TO WHAT A FEW MIXED-UP SOULS BELIEVE, CYKE'S INCREDIBLE EYES GENERATE ONLY **FORCE**-- NOT **HEAT!** *

SCHOOL BUS

GOT TO STOP THAT DRIVERLESS **BUS** BEFORE ANYBODY GETS **HURT!**

WITH THE KIND OF PRESS THE **X-MEN** GET, THOUGH, THE PAPERS'LL PROBABLY REPORT IT WAS HALTED BY IRON MAN'S **REPULSOR RAYS!**

*TOO BAD! I WAS HOPING HE COULD SAVE ME SOME MONEY ON A **SUN LAMP** THIS WINTER! --SAVE-A-BUCK STAN.

NEXT, JUST IN CASE YOU'RE INTERESTED IN A **FURTHER** DEMONSTRATION OF THE MILDER USES OF **PEEPER POWER...**

HE STOPPED THAT **BOULDER** COLD--JUST BY **LOOKIN'** AT IT!

SPLAT

MUST USE JUST THE RIGHT AMOUNT OF ENERGY TO **IMMO-BILIZE** THE BOULDER!

--NOT **SHATTER** IT!

THEN, WHEN HE OPENS HIS VISOR **ALL THE WAY--**

IT--IT'S NOT **POSSIBLE!**

IT'S COMING RIGHT BACK **AT** US!

YOU STAY HERE AND ARGUE ABOUT HOW **IMPOSSIBLE** IT IS!

ME, I'M DIGGIN' OUT FOR **PARTS UNKNOWN!**

AND, IN CASES WHERE ABSOLUTE **PRECISION** IS CALLED FOR, SCOTT'S ALL-PURPOSE VISOR CAN ADJUST TO CREATE A BEAM OF ALMOST **MICROSCOPIC WIDTH** IF NEED BE...

THOUGH, FRANKLY, **WE** DON'T KNOW EXACTLY WHAT HE'S DOING IN THIS PANEL **EITHER!**

NOTE FOR NIT-PICKERS: SURE, HE MIGHT BE ABLE TO GET THE SAME EFFECT BY **SQUINTING** --BUT, **OUR** WAY IS A WEE BIT MORE **DEPENDABLE!**

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WHEN IT COMES TO *RANGE*, EVEN OUR RAY-BLASTING RECLUSE ISN'T QUITE CERTAIN--BUT, WE FIGURE IT AS UP TO SEVERAL HUNDRED *YARDS*--WITH DIMINISHING STRENGTH THE FURTHER THE BEAM *TRAVELS*...

INCIDENTALLY, DON'T FEEL *TOO* SORRY FOR THE CHARGING BULL DEPICTED ABOVE! HE GOT A GOOD JOB LATER ON AN *EXCEDRIN COMMERCIAL!*

AND NOW, IN ANSWER TO ABOUT A ZILLION LETTERS ASKING WHY OUR AGONIZIN' ARTISTS OFTEN DRAW CYKE BEAMING AWAY WITHOUT TOUCHING THE *STUDS* ON HIS VISOR, WE'VE GOT A LITTLE *SECRET* FOR YOU...

BUT, WE'RE HOPIN' YOU WON'T LET *MAGNETO* IN ON IT....!

ON THE PALM OF EACH GLOVED HAND, THERE'S AN AUXILIARY, ALMOST INVISIBLE *BUTTON*--ACTIVATED ONLY BY THE CAREFULLY-CALCULATED TOUCH OF *CYKE* HIMSELF!

HAH!

BUT, LEST ANY ILL-INFORMED MARVELITE MISTAKENLY BELIEVE THAT YOUNG MR. SUMMERS WOULD BE UTTERLY *HELPLESS* IF THE ABOVE STUDS FAILED TO OPERATE--

SOK

FINALLY, FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO'VE ASKED HOW CYKE'S OPTIC BLASTS WOULD FARE AGAINST SOMEBODY LIKE *THOR*--OR THE *HULK*--

--TO TELL THE TRUTH, WE'LL JUST HAVE TO WAIT AND *SEE*, FRANTIC ONE!

AND, IF YOU THINK I'M GONNA HOLD MY *BREATH* WHILE I'M WAITING--!

NEXT ISH: IT'S *ORIGIN* TIME AGAIN, AS... "THE ICEMAN COMETH!"

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